1986. Items of export interest have been identified. The Commodities listed in the protocol are only indicative. The protocol will become operative w.e.f. 1st Jan., 1986 and shall remain valid for a period of one year.

(c) The available details of bilateral trade from 1981-82 on wards are as below:—

Rr in lakhs

Year	Exports to China	Imports from china
1981-82 . . .	5268	7826
1982-83 . . .	1216	10502
1983-84 . . .	572	7579
1984-85* . . .	212	6655

*Provisional.

India Tourist Office, London

2970. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'India tourism staff in London agitated' which appeared in the Times of India of the 23rd November, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to set the matters right?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A locally based Accountant was dismissed by Director, Tourist Office, London for long absence from duty and misconduct. He has submitted his case to the Industrial Tribunal. Two other local employees, have also submitted applications to Industrial Tribunal for changing the terms and conditions of appointment. Thus all hese cases are *subjudice*.

Director's Tour to India with groups of Travel writers/Agents and Tour operators, and her visit to Singapore, were undertaken with the prior approval of the Government.

The Tourist Traffic from the U.K. as also from other countries in Europe during 1984 declined because of adverse media coverage in foreign countries regarding certain unforeseen unfortunate evnts.

Various measures adopted by the Government to accelerate tourists traffic to India include a reassurance campaign, reorientation of the publicity campaign giving emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, expansion of internal transport systems, development of infra-structure for holiday tourism, in addition to cultural tourism. etc.

Production of metal scrap

2971. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mini steel plants in the country;

(b) what is the quantum of metal scrap required by these plants every year;

(c) what is the quantity of metal scrap produced in the country every year; and

(d) what steps Government are taking or propose to take to make this raw material available for mini steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) At present 159 mini steel plants are in production in the country.

(b) It is estimated that during 1985-86. a total of about 3.5 million

tonnes of metal Scrap will be required by mini steel plants.

(c) Total arisings of Metal Scrap in the country during this year are expected to be about 2.00 million tonnes.

(d) The gap in the domestic availability and demand of the item is proposed to be filled by import of Metal Scrap in the form of Scrap/ Sponge Iron/Hot Briquetted Iron.

Reduction of import duty on melting scrap, sponge iron, etc.

2972. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether melting scrap, sponge iron and hot briquetted iron are imported in the country; if so, the quantity of each item imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce import duty on these items to bring it at par with import duty on billets;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The quantity of Carbon Steel Melting Scrap & Sponge Iron imported during the last three years was as under:—

S. No.	*Commodity*	Year		
		1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1	Carbon Steel Melting	631	720	810
2	Sponge Iron	66	23.7	42.1

Hot Briquetted Iron has not been imported so far.

(b) to (d) Carbon Steel Melting Scrap, Sponge Iron etc. are the raw materials for production of Ingots/ billets. Therefore Customs duty on both these items is not comparable. However the Government have received certain representations for reduction in the import duty on melting scrap etc. used by Electric Are Furnace units, which are under consideration.

Import of billets

2973. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of billets imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what amount of foreign exchange was spent on these imports; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to stop its import and develop indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) During the last three years, i.e., 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, Steel Authority of India Limited, the then